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A NEW CONDITION

The situation in public education in Alabama, and doubtless throughout the country, is undergoing a marked change. This is primarily due to conditions growing out of the war, and, so far as we know, it has not been at any time forecasted by any observer of events.

The condition is the shortage of teachers in the public schools. Although the school year now is nearly half gone, at a point where the work should be fully under way, it is a fact that there is today beyond doubt a larger percentage of closed school houses in Alabama than there have been in a half century. It is hardly necessary to ask why. Everybody should know that the demands of our country in the increasing stress that the war has put upon her is calling her bravest and best young manhood to the colors. Hundreds of our best young men teachers have responded to the call and are in the training camps or at the front, and their schools are closed or any making a shift to continue under less experienced if not less efficient direction.

In order to meet the conditions pointed out above and in Supt. Dowell's call, the Department of Education has not only adopted a liberal policy in validating certificates from other states and in grading the papers at the December examination but it hurried up the examination of those papers to remarkable extent in order that successful applicants might go to work immediately. The Normal Schools also have done their utmost to persuade eligible young people to enter the profession, but in spite of all of this the supply of teachers is still insufficient and it is necessary to put forth still greater efforts.

STILL GREATER SHORTAGE

The shortage of teachers in Alabama promises to be still greater than it is, if the war continues, and they who offer their services to fill the vacancies made by those teachers who have gone to the front are doing their country a true and noble service. And what will that mean to you? Greater responsibility to try to do something to help your country in an emergency; greater assurance of getting a good place in which to serve; and better compensation for this service when it is rendered. Let not this appeal fall upon deaf ears! Come and get ready to do something for your state, "Do your bit."



SUPT. DOWELL'S CALL.

It is perfectly logical, in view of the conditions, for the call to be made upon the Normal Schools, the only training schools for teachers of the public schools, to come to the rescue, and they are glad to comply with the wishes expressed in the following call by Supt. Dowell:

January 15, 1918

To the Normal Schools of Alabama:

The State Department of Education is making heroic effort to provide the necessary supply of teachers to keep open our public schools, in the belief that the world never needed educated boys and girls as we will need them from now on.

The Department has acted as a bureau for informing teachers about vacancies and school boards about teachers open for positions; it has adopted the emergency expedient of validating certificates issued by any other State until the next succeeding examination; it has broken all previous records in grading and reporting upon the papers of applicants at the recent State examination.

Notwithstanding these efforts, there are still a few counties in the State that are unable to open all the schools because of a lack of qualified teachers. Blount County, for example, has twenty schools that are not provided, and Cullman is in the same plight. This deficiency will be augmented as the call of subsequent drafts further depletes the ranks and as the business world offers increasingly attractive opportunities for employment, unless the public can be brought to see that education is as important as fighting and farming, and that we are rendering to humanity and the world the greatest service possible for us to render if we educate the coming generation.

In the light of the present conditions, therefore, as State Superintendent of Education and with the approval of the Executive Committee of the State Normal School Board, I hereby call upon our Normal Schools, as the specific agency for the training of teachers for elementary schools, to offer an emergency training course for teachers, this course to be separate and distinct from the courses now offered.

Such a course will make it possible for members who have given up teaching, but are so situated that they could teach again, and feel called upon to make this contribution to the national defense until the crisis is passed, to re-enter the profession; it will also make it possible for those who have finished courses in institutions of learning of lower than college rank and do not find it convenient to continue their studies, to respond to this immediate opportunity for public service; it will further make it possible for those who cannot go to the front, and yet see in teaching the opportunity to render the country the highest service, to get ready with the least inconvenience.

County superintendent of education, boards of education, and school officials everywhere are asked to select those in their several communities who give promise of making good teachers and urge them to join these special classes and prepare to do their part.

In taking this step, the Department of Education is well aware that the special course proposed is in no sense the equivalent of the regular teacher

training course, but it is also aware that there is a dire public need which calls for immediate relief. This policy has been decided upon, therefore, in the belief that it is better to keep the schools open, even though we recruit the ranks in the manner above suggested, than to have boys and girls in great numbers miss the school privileges which can never be denied them in a democracy and which our law compels us to give them.

Feeling sure you will be glad to respond to this emergency call and that you will enter zealously and whole-heartedly upon the task imposed, I am,

Very truly yours,

SPRIGT DOWELL,

Superintendent

SPECIAL CLASSES

Pursuant to this call the State Normal at Troy will organize special classes for the drilling of those who wish to take the State examinations in April and July. This work will begin Monday, February 4th, and will continue until the State Examination in April, after which another drill course will immediately begin for the July examination. Those who contemplate taking the course should report for work at the earliest possible moment. Several have already enrolled for the drill.

Early entrance and diligent application should assure the success of almost all applicants in securing license as teachers.

SPECIAL NOTES

The Troy Normal Contributes Another Professor To The University Faculty.

Our Normal must be allowed to plume itself just a little upon the fact that it has furnished some of the leading institutions of the State with heads of departments. The University itself has fallen heir to two former members of our faculty, both of whom are also our graduates—Dr. J. J. Doster and Prof. V. P. McKinley.

Prof. McKinley, who has ably directed the work of our Arts Department for a number of years, resigned on January 1st to assume the new chair of Trades and Industries at the University.

Miss Gorton Resigns Too

Miss Elizabeth W. Gorton, Teacher of Public School Music and Drawing, was married on the 6th of January to Mr. Lester, of Georgia.

The best wishes of many Troy friends follow both Prof. McKinley and Mrs. Lester.



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Great Plans For The Summer School of 1918

Under the new plan of the Class A Normals, two-thirds of the year becomes available to the public school teachers for additional training and fitting themselves for higher possibilities and for better service and salaries. More extensive preparations are being made than ever before to have the work of the Summer School of 1918 meet the conditions demanded by the times. Already the largest and most experienced faculty in our history has been engaged to do this work. Workers of State reputation will be on our teaching staff, as well as county superintendents, high school and city school superintendents and teachers, besides the members of our regular faculty. The Troy Normal is going to do its part to meet the conditions so strongly described in Supt. Dowell's call, and we are expecting the intelligent and patriotic teachers of Alabama to do their duty by taking advantage of the unusual opportunities that will be offered for getting themselves ready to relieve the situation in our State.

Let every eligible person heed the call! Such action should be esteemed a patriotic duty.

A special bulletin descriptive of the work of the Summer School will be issued within a few weeks, and any who are interested should write to the Secretary for a copy.

Those expecting to attend the Spring Term as soon as their schools close, should write at once so that board can be arranged.

Further particulars concerning any of the work of the School will be cheerfully furnished upon application to

E. M. SHACKELFORD, President
TROY, ALA.